

REMARKS

This application contains claims 1-63. Claims 4, 6, 25, 27, 46 and 48 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 15, 17, 22, 26, 28, 29, 36, 38, 43, 47, 49, 50, 57 and 59 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner asked to receive a substitute copy of the Declaration that was submitted in this case. A substitute copy of the Declaration has accordingly been submitted.

The specification was objected to because the documents listed in the "Cross-Reference to Related Applications" were not identified with sufficient clarity. Applicant has therefore amended this section of the specification to identify the serial numbers of the U.S. patent applications referenced in the section.

Claims 6-8, 15-17, 27-29, 36-38, 48-50 and 57-59 were objected to for depending from rejected base claims, but were deemed to recite allowable subject matter. Applicant has therefore amended independent claims 1, 22 and 43 to incorporate the limitations of claims 6, 27 and 48, respectively, along with the limitations of claims 4, 25 and 46, from which claims 6, 27 and 48 formerly depended. In addition, Applicant has amended claims 15, 36 and 57 to stand

as independent claims, incorporating all the limitations of the base claims and intervening claims from which these claims formerly depended. All the remaining claims in the application now depend from amended claims 1, 15, 22, 36, 43 and 57. Thus, all the claims in this application are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-5, 9-14, 18, 19, 22-26, 30-35, 39, 40, 43-47, 51-56, 60 and 61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Walker et al. (U.S. Patent 6,249,879). Claims 20, 21, 41, 42, 62 and 63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Walker in view of Coy et al. (U.S. Patent 5,644,766) or in view of Lee et al. (U.S. Patent 6,601,101). While disagreeing with the grounds of rejection, Applicant has amended the claims, as explained above, for the sake of expediting prosecution. All the independent claims now recite subject matter that was found by the Examiner to be allowable and thus distinguish the present invention over the cited art.

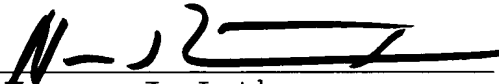
Applicant has studied the additional references that were made of reference by the Examiner, and believes the claims in the present patent application to be patentable over these references, as well, whether the references are taken individually or in any combination.

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Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are in order for allowance. Notice to this effect is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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